

## Executive Working Group on the Cost of Living

### TERMS OF REFERENCE

#### 1. General Objectives:

- Investigate the cost-of-living crisis to inform our members and residents of its aspects and impacts.
- Explore and implement mitigation within our direct remit and lobby those beyond it.
- Coordinate, communicate and expand existing mitigation.
- Maintain oversight of the implementation of any local or national government led schemes.

### 2. CONSTITUTIONAL STATUS

Executive Working Group

### 3. MEMBERSHIP

\*Chair \*\*Vice-Chair

#### WBC Members:

Leader of the Council\*

Deputy Leader of the Council\*\*

Portfolio Holder for Finance

Co-Portfolio Holders for Housing (Delivery); and Housing (Operations)

Portfolio Holders for Planning and Economic Development

*All other exec members invited/notified of meetings and would be recognised to take part fully if in attendance. All other members to be appraised of when it sits and can register to speak.*

#### Officers and Others

Chief Executive

Strategic Directors

Heads of Service, Housing Operations; and Housing Delivery and Communities

Head of Finance and Property

Communications Manager

Chair of Waverley Tenants Panel Citizens

Advice Waverley Representative

Representatives of outside bodies as appropriate

### 4. AREAS OF POTENTIAL WORK

- Impact of inflation on the budget of the council and consideration of solutions that try not to pass strain onto the public. (Elements may need to be WBC exec only)
- Similar consideration with rent and housing matters
- Compilation of a full list/website directory and map of support services that exist across Waverley. (For example, where are all the food banks).
- Bringing together all relevant supporting data (UC Claimants, unemployment, food bank usage etc.
- Economic development support for businesses promoting re-use and recycle (especially at more reasonable prices vs new).
- Communication to members about the root causes of inflation / cost-of-living crisis and the impacts on council services (and communication of anything we are doing about it).
- Communication to residents about the situation more generally (education/information) and where they can access support services. □ Ensure communication within the council is 'joined up' as possible on these issues.
- Maintain oversight of the implementation of any local or national government led schemes that WBC is tasked with implementing.

## **5. Quorum**

The quorum of the working group shall be three members.

## **6. FREQUENCY OF MEETINGS**

As and when required.

## LOCAL COST OF LIVING STATISTICS

Measure	Waverley	Context and comparison	Period covered	Last published	Publication cycle	Source	Change
Cost of Living Vulnerability Index	332	286 <sup>th</sup> out of 307 local authorities Highest score: 1,705 (Middlesbrough) Lowest score: 125 (Surrey Heath)	Various, composite of different statistics	April 2022	N/A	<a href="#">Centre for Progressive Policy</a>	N/A, new data set
Council tax support, Universal Credit claimants currently in receipt of	2,433	-	22 <sup>nd</sup> August 2022	22 <sup>nd</sup> August 2022	Monthly	Waverley Revenue and Benefits Team	-
Fuel poverty, % of households in	7.3% (3,896 out of 53,560)	England: 13.2% South East: 8.6% Surrey: 6.9%	2020	April 2022	Annual	<a href="#">Department for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy</a>	+1.1%
Mean domestic electricity consumption (kWh per household)	5,177	GB: 3,955 England: 3,962 South East: 4,327	2020/21	December 2021	Annual	<a href="#">Department for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy</a>	+301

Mean domestic gas consumption (kWh per household)	17,570	GB: 13,698 England: 13,726 South East: 13,872	2020/21	December 2021	Annual	<a href="#">Department of Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy</a>	+113
Median domestic electricity consumption (kWh per household)	3,513	GB: 2,902 England: 2,928 South East: 3,147	2020/21	December 2021	Annual	<a href="#">Department for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy</a>	+137
Median domestic gas consumption (kWh per household)	14,957	GB: 12,145 England: 12,173 South East: 12,077	2020/21	December 2021	Annual	<a href="#">Department of Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy</a>	+120
Mean non-domestic electricity consumption (kWh per household)	30,598	GB: 59,015 England: 58,151 South East: 55,409	2020/21	December 2021	Annual	<a href="#">Department for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy</a>	-4,705
Mean non-domestic gas consumption (kWh per household)	231,009	GB: 693,988 England: 668,329 South East: 468,696	2020/21	December 2021	Annual	<a href="#">Department of Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy</a>	+599

Median domestic electricity consumption (kWh per household)	5,823	GB: 5,568 England: 5,533 South East: 5,551	2020/21	December 2021	Annual	<a href="#">Department for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy</a>	-1,861
Median domestic gas consumption (kWh per household)	14,957	GB: 12,145 England: 12,172 South East: 12,077	2020/21	December 2021	Annual	<a href="#">Department of Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy</a>	+120
Unemployment rate	2.7%	UK: 3.8%	April 2021 - March 2022	August 2022	Quarterly	<a href="#">Office for National Statistics</a>	-0.4%
Universal Credit, Current claimants of	4,700	-	22 <sup>nd</sup> August 2022	22 <sup>nd</sup> August 2022	Monthly	Waverley Revenue and Benefits Team	-
Universal Credit, Households on	3,415	-	Point in time measure	May 2022	Monthly	<a href="#">Department for Work and Pensions</a>	+40

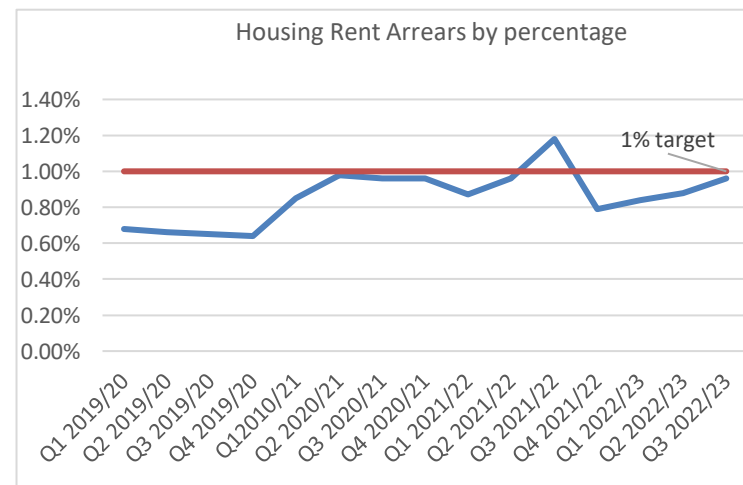
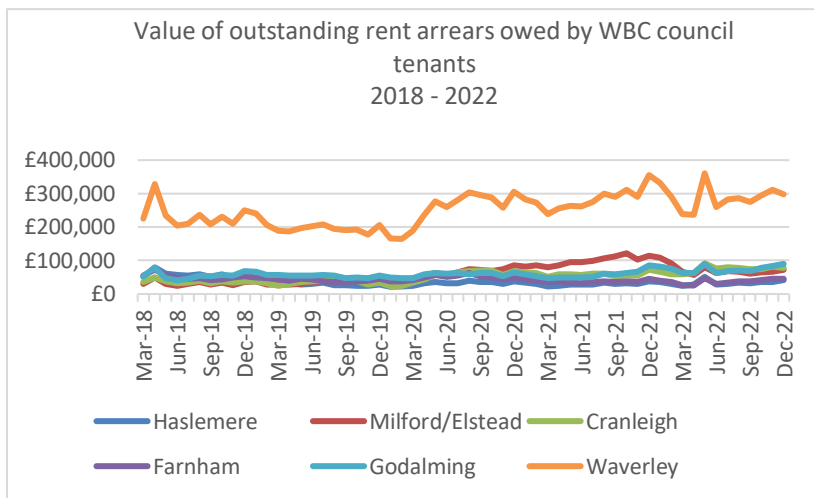
## **COST OF LIVING WORKING GROUP – 26 JANUARY** **2023**

### **Cost of Living Indicators**

A number of indicators have been reported to the Group since its first meeting. Where more recent figures are available these have been included below.

The Group may want to consider whether a number of these indicators should continue to be reported to the Executive on a regular basis, either monthly or quarterly. Whilst some indicators are available directly from Waverley, others are provided by Government departments and partner organisations.

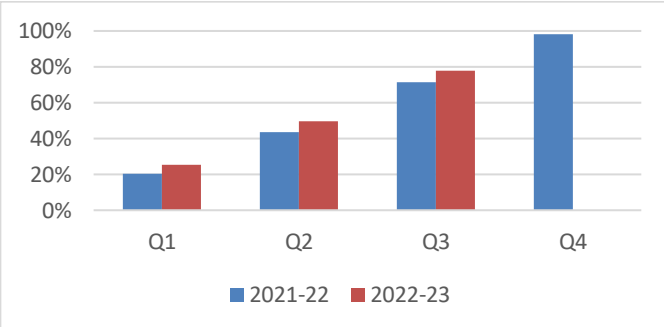
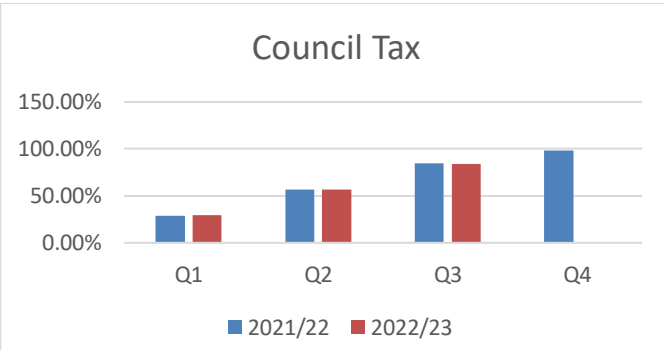
Measure	Latest Data Available	Comparison	Source	Comment	Publication cycle
Housing rent arrears as a percentage of total rent income.	<b>Dec 2022</b> <b>0.96%</b> <b>£297,686</b>		<b>WBC</b>	There are two large arrears cases amounting to £28.7K. Without these, the percentage of arrears would be 0.86% which is within the Team's target of 1%. The Team work very hard to keep arrears within this target and provide a great deal of support to tenants. The graph below shows there has been relatively little change in percentage terms in arrears over the past four years.	Monthly



Measure	Latest Data Available	Comparison	Source	Comment	Publication cycle
Out of work benefits	<b>1,350</b> <b>(1.8%)</b>	South East 2.9%	<a href="#">Labour Market Profile -</a>		Monthly

claimants in Waverley	December 2022	Great Britain 3.7%	<a href="https://www.nomisweb.co.uk">Nomis - Official Census and Labour Market Statistics (nomisweb.co.uk)</a>		
Unemployment rate	<b>2.7%</b> April 2021 - March 2022	UK 3.8%	<a href="https://www.ons.gov.uk">Office for National Statistics</a>	Model-based estimates of unemployment for local authorities utilising Annual Population Survey estimates of unemployment along with the Claimant Count averaged over 12 months	Rolling year
Number of people in receipt of Universal Credit	<b>5081</b> October 2022  4,700 August 2022		DWP	As UC Full Service is rolled out the number of claimants recorded may increase.	3 monthly in arrears
Households on Universal Credit,	<b>3611</b> October 2022  3,415 August 2022		<a href="https://www.dwp.gov.uk">Department for Work and Pensions</a>	As UC Full Service is rolled out the number of claimants recorded may increase.	3 monthly in arrears



Measure	Latest Data Available	Comparison	Source	Comment	Publication cycle
Number of Council Tax Support claimants	<b>4312</b> (January 19 2023)  4365 (November 2022)		WBC		A point in time
Business Rate Collection	3 <sup>rd</sup> quarter ending December 2022 <b>77.7%</b> (Target 74.3%)	Other district councils		 <p>Business Rate collection has improved during 22/23</p>	
Council Tax Collection	3 <sup>rd</sup> quarter ending December 2022 <b>84.1%</b> (Target 74.3%)	Other district councils	WBC	 <p>Council Tax collection has remained on target through 2022/23</p>	

Measure	Latest Data Available	Comparison	Source		Publication cycle
CoL Inquiries to CAW – top issues	<b>648</b> compared to 441 <b>47%</b> increase		CAW	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Cost of energy</li> <li>• Crime figures</li> <li>• Applications to Housing Options Team</li> <li>• Business Survival</li> <li>• Empty shops in High Streets</li> </ul>	Last 3 months compared to 3 months last year

Other metrics to consider:

- Housing Support Fund uptake
- Free school meals in Waverley
- Car Park income – trend
- Planning Application income – trend
- Contract inflation